
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Hartley Wintney Rural District

for the Year 1923.

ROTHERWICK,

March, 1924.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1923, this being my Fourth Annual Report as your Medical Officer.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	53,626
Population (1923)	20,710
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) ..	4,469
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	4,621
Rateable Value	£144,062
Sum represented by a penny rate ..	£488

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	Male	Female	
Births { Legitimate	387	207	180	} Birth rate 19.6
{ Illegitimate	20	10	10	
Deaths	192	88	104	Death rate 9.7

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth—

(a) from sepsis	nil
(b) from other causes	nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—

Legitimate 16	Illegitimate 3	Total 19
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Deaths from Measles (all ages)	nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	3

Of all the causes of death, Heart and Arterial Diseases were the most numerous, 68; Cancer cases were 30. There were only two deaths from Influenza.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	Admitted Notified to Hospital Deaths		
Small-pox	Nil		
Diphtheria	5	4	1
Scarlet Fever	23	13	0
Erysipelas	4	0	0
Continued Fever	1	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil		

TUBERCULOSIS.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year..	..	0	0	1	0
1 to 5 years ..	..	0	0	0	0
5 to 10 „ ..	..	0	0	2	0
10 to 15 „ ..	..	0	1	0	0
15 to 20 „ ..	..	1	0	0	0
20 to 25 „ ..	..	1	2	0	0
25 to 35 „ ..	..	3	0	0	0
35 to 45 „ ..	..	2	0	0	0
Over 45 „ ..	..	0	1	0	0

There were eleven deaths from Tuberculosis, of which six had not been notified.

The District has again been fortunate in the matter of Infectious Disease: two families accounted for ten of the Scarlet Fever cases: all the cases of this disease were of the extremely mild type now prevalent.

HOSPITALS, NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

There are eleven Nurse-midwives practising in the District.

Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres, staffed by the County Council, are in operation at Cove, Crookham, Hawley and Odiham: there is also one at Crondall under voluntary organisation.

The County Council also provide Tuberculosis Dispensaries and V.D. Clinics at Aldershot and Basingstoke.

Infectious Disease cases are treated in the Isolation Hospital of the Aldershot Borough Council.

The County Council, under "The County of Southampton (Prevention and Treatment of Smallpox) Regulations, 1922," are the Authority responsible for the treatment of cases of Smallpox in this District.

There are Cottage Hospitals at Odiham, Yateley and Fleet: the County Hospitals at Winchester and Reading are much used.

The Council have the use of a motor-ambulance for the transport of infectious cases: for non-infectious and accident cases the British Red Cross Society have a motor-ambulance stationed at Fleet.

LABORATORY FACILITIES, ETC.

The County Council Laboratory provides all the requisite facilities for bacteriological and other work: a considerable number of samples of drinking water have been sent from this District for analysis during the year.

The Council keep a stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin and apparatus for its administration, available for the use of Medical Men in the District.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BY-LAWS, ETC. IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT, WITH DATE OF ADOPTION.

P.H.A. (Amendment) Act, 1890 ..	Part 3, 1898
Building By-Laws	1909, 1914, 1922
Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order	1909
By-Laws relating to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	1898

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF.

There is one whole-time Inspector: he holds the certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute for meat and other foods, nuisance inspection, and sanitary science.

The District has been regularly and systematically inspected, and the Inspector's Report is appended, but it is impossible to indicate adequately the amount of work he carries out, especially as much of it consists of what may be described as "informal action" on his part. I gladly take this opportunity again to remind the Council of the efficient manner in which the Inspector's multifarious duties are discharged: under the conditions obtaining at the present time, there is much to discourage the Sanitary Officer in a District of this type.

In consequence of increasingly frequent complaints of nuisance in connection with the Odiham Sewers, the Council ordered a Special Report to be made on the sewers and sewage disposal, and I presented this Report in August. The chief points were:—

1. The sewers were constructed for the most part in very remote times, and were not intended to convey sewage, but only surface water.
2. They have been subjected to many alterations and repairs, the repairs being a "patchwork" which favours blockage and nuisance.
3. Water mains runs close to the sewers, and if pressure in these mains is intermitted for repairs or other reason insuction from a leaky sewer is not unlikely.

4. The effluent from the irrigation treatment appears to be satisfactory, and sufficient space exists to enlarge the disposal system if necessary.
5. The present day heavy traffic is too much for the old brick culverts in the High Street and elsewhere, and there is risk of serious accidents.

A Scavenging Scheme is now being undertaken in the central part of Cove village, but is not yet in actual working: it has been long overdue.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—Total 82.

Cottage class	61
Larger houses.. .. .	21

None were erected with assistance under the Housing Acts.
Unfit dwelling houses:—

1. Total number of houses inspected for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts.. .. .	1794
2. Number of houses inspected and recorded under Housing Regulations, 1910	224
3. Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	136
4. Number of houses (excluding those under 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	147

Action under Statutory Powers:—

Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909, section 17 and 18.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	19
2. Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.. .. .	13
3. Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the houses having been rendered fit	8

Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective houses repaired by owners	23
Ditto (minor repairs)	20
Small houses converted into larger, i.e., two into one, four into one, etc. ..	14

Five of the estates in the District, owning considerable number of houses, are at present engaged in carrying out repairs.

The housing problem is in danger of becoming threadbare under discussion, and is wearisome to all, to none more so than to the victims of the shortage, a large section of the population, whose numbers are not decreasing.

It will be observed from the figures given above that the proportion of houses of the cottage class to those of a larger type, built during the year, is less than three to one, which clearly demonstrates the general disinclination on the part of private enterprise to build the type of house most urgently required.

Repair work is not as satisfactory in its results as one would hope, and houses repaired seem to fail again very quickly: I am not prepared to say what is the cause of this: it may be that the old houses suffer from vibration set up by present day traffic, materials or workmanship may not be so good as formerly: the results are certainly in many cases very disappointing, and one is reminded of the parable of the piece of new cloth and the old garment.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

MARK AVENT,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1923.

Houses and premises inspected	..	..	..	97
" " revisited	..	..	..	836
Notices issued (intimations)	..	..	.	numbers
" " (statutory)	..	..	..	15

MATTERS DEALT WITH.

DRAINS—

Constructed	..	..	..	..	..	9
Repaired	..	..	..	..	..	19
Ventilated	..	..	..	..	..	12
Cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	54
Disconnecting traps fixed	..	..	..	..	..	9
Old drains abolished	..	..	..	..	..	8
Gully traps fixed	..	..	..	..	..	20
Defective traps abolished	..	..	..	..	..	8
Manholes built	..	..	..	..	..	9
" repaired	..	..	..	..	..	0
Fresh air inlets fixed	..	..	..	..	..	5
Tested	..	..	..	..	..	31

WATER CLOSETS—

Constructed	..	..	..	..	..	8
Abolished	..	..	..	..	..	0
Cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	14
Flushing apparatus fixed	..	..	..	..	..	12
New pans fitted	..	..	..	..	..	4
Soil pipes fixed	..	..	..	..	..	4
" " ventilated	..	..	..	..	..	3

WATER SUPPLY—

Provided	..	..	..	..	..	13
Reinstated	..	..	..	..	..	12
Visits—re Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	231
Cisterns fixed	..	..	..	..	..	0
" cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	0
Wells sunk	..	..	..	..	..	4
" repaired	..	..	..	..	..	5
" Cleaned out	..	..	..	..	..	0
Samples of water sent to Analyst—Public supplies						6
" " " Wells						8

ASHPITS AND CESSPOOLS—

Ashpits cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	4
„ abolished	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cesspools constructed	..	..	..	..	..	5
„ cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	31
„ abolished	..	..	..	..	..	1

CESSPITS—

Cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	36
Abolished	..	..	..	..	..	25

PAIL CLOSETS—

Constructed	21
Cleansed	17
Abolished	3

EARTH CLOSETS—

Provided	1
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MISCELLANEOUS—

Overcrowding abated	6
Offensive accumulation removed	55
Keeping of animals discontinued	..	..	..	..	..	10
Premises cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	7

SCHOOLS—

Visits to	..	..	..	..	..	25
Defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	4
Supplied with disinfectant as required	..	..	..	..	..	12

SLAUGHTERHOUSES—

Number	..	..	..	..	..	15
Visits to	..	..	..	..	..	24
Cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	3

BAKEHOUSES—

Number	33
Visited	28
Cleansed	7

OTHER FOODS—

Premises visited	32
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DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, MILKSHOPS—

Number now on register (wholesale)	120
„ „ (retail)	71
Visits made	..	..	241
Samples water examined	..	..	4
Application to register received	..	..	13
Premises cleansed	..	..	26
„ improved	..	..	14

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

Visits to cases	..	..	81
Premises disinfected	..	..	44
Bedding disinfected by steam-lots	..	..	15
„ burned..	..	..	1

It has again been noticeable that samples of milk, which on examination shew a visible deposit of dirt, come as frequently from premises where few, if any, structural defects can be observed, as from less satisfactory premises. This shews that it is correct to say that elaborate buildings and equipment do not, of themselves, mean clean milk, but it is the methods that count. Clean milk is often produced under most adverse circumstances.

The “Sack” portable steam disinfecter continues to be satisfactory.

The smoke drain-testing apparatus, purchased by the Council during the year, has been very useful, and has no ill effect on drains tested, because the pressure is low, yet leaking joints in pipes or shafts quickly shew.

Odiham Scavenging Scheme has been supervised in accordance with the Council’s instructions. A new pump for emptying cesspools is badly needed. A vacuum odourless cart (e.g. a Merryweather) would be a great improvement, as with this cesspools can be cleansed in the day without odour arising: many people now sleep with open windows, and cesspool emptying near these is very offensive.

STANLEY BUTLER,

Sanitary Inspector.

